

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A method for preparing an electrochromic device, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first substantially transparent substrate having an outer surface and an inner surface, wherein an electrically conductive material is applied to at least a portion of the inner surface;

(b) providing a second substrate having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein an electrically conductive material is applied to at least a portion of the inner surface; ~~and~~

(c) providing an electrochromic medium contained within a chamber positioned between the first and second substrates which comprises:

(1) at least one solvent;

(2) at least one electrochromic material; and

(3) at least one of a cross-linked matrix, a free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel; and

~~(4) wherein the cross-linked matrix results from cross-linking preformed substantially non cross-linked polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 1,000 daltons.~~

(d) wherein the step of providing the electrochromic medium includes the step of cross-linking preformed substantially non cross-linked polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 1,000 daltons.

4. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

5. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and the substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 2,000 daltons.

6. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 5, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

7. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and the substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 3,000 daltons.

8. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 7, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

9. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked, the free-standing gel, and the substantially non-weeping gel matrix results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 5,000 daltons.

10. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 9, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

11-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A method for preparing an electrochromic device, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first substantially transparent substrate having an outer surface and an inner surface, wherein an electrically conductive material is applied to at least a portion of the inner surface;

(b) providing a second substrate having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein an electrically conductive material is applied to at least a portion of the inner surface; ~~and~~

(c) providing an electrochromic medium contained within a chamber positioned between the first and second substrates which comprises:

(1) at least one solvent;

(2) at least one electrochromic material; and

(3) at least one of a cross-linked matrix, a free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel; and

~~(4) wherein the free-standing gel results from cross-linking polymer chains, and wherein forming the polymer chains and cross-linking are not substantially one and the same reaction.~~

(d) wherein the step of providing the electrochromic medium includes the steps of cross-linking and forming polymer chains, and wherein the steps of cross-linking and forming the polymer chains do not occur in substantially the same reaction.

20. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

21. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 1,000 daltons.

22. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 21, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

23. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 2,000 daltons.

24. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 23, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

25. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 3,000 daltons.

26. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 25, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

27. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 5,000 daltons.

28. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 27, wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

29-46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A method for preparing an electrochromic device, comprising the steps of:

- providing at least one substrate; and
- providing a substantially non-weeping gel, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 1,000 daltons, and wherein the polymer chains are formed prior to cross-linking by polymerization of at least one monomer.

48. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 2,000 daltons.

49. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 3,000 daltons.

50. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel results from cross-linking polymer chains having a molecular weight of at least approximately 5,000 daltons.

51. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the electrochromic device is a solid state device.

52. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and the substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than approximately 50 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

53. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and the substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than 33 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

54. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and the substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than 19 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

55-57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than approximately 50 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

59. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than 33 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

60. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of the cross-linked matrix, the free-standing gel, and a substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than 19 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

61-66. (canceled)

67. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than approximately 50 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

68. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than 33 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.

69. (currently amended) The method for preparing the electrochromic device according to claim 47, wherein the substantially non-weeping gel comprises less than 19 percent by weight of the electrochromic medium.